

Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights & Measures

Christine Turner, Agricultural Commissioner

MISSION STATEMENT

To protect the agricultural industry by detecting and eradicating dangerous and invasive pests, promote the sale of locally grown products, protect the public and environment by promoting the safe use of pesticides, and increase consumer confidence in local businesses by protecting against fraud and deception.

Appropriation	Budget 2003-04	Position Allocations	Recommended 2004-05	Position Allocations
Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights & Measures	\$ 1,541,983	13	\$ 1,432,400	13
Fish & Game Commission	10,610	0	10,610	0
Total:	\$ 1,552,593	13	\$ 1,443,010	13

CORE FUNCTIONS

Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights & Measures

The Agricultural Commissioner promotes regional public awareness of Placer County agriculture and the sale of agricultural products and encourages agriculture-related tourism as a means of economic diversification for the farming community. In addition, the program protects Placer County's agricultural and natural resources against damage caused by exotic insects, diseases, and weeds; assure compliance with the federal and state laws pertaining to the proper and safe use of pesticides; and protect farms from incompatible land uses, which would limit agricultural productivity and efficiency. The Sealer of Weights and Measures' program enforces laws and regulations that assure marketplace equity for transactions involving count, weight, or measure.

Fish & Game Commission

Preserves the fisheries and wildlife in Placer County for future generations through local fish plants, habitat improvements, animal trappings and collaring, and pollution monitoring of streams and lakes in cooperation with the State Department of Fish and Game.

FY 2003-04 Major Accomplishments

- Continued to prevent the introduction of non-native plants, insects, and diseases to Placer County's agricultural and natural landscape.
- Helped ensure the high quality of nursery products grown in Placer County.
- Helped in the effort to prevent Exotic Newcastle Disease and other foreign animal diseases from becoming established in Placer County.
- Improved the management and reporting of agricultural production information.
- Promoted certified farmers markets and organic production by conducting verification inspections and audits.
- Improved the level of compliance in the safe use of pesticides.
- As part of the County's ongoing Agricultural Marketing Program, published the 2004 Farm Trails Guide and distributed 100,000 copies that provided information on buying locally produced agricultural products.

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- As part of a joint cooperative effort between the County's Agricultural Marketing Program, the High Sierra Resource Conservation Development Area and Cooperative Extension, participated in the development of the High Sierra Beef Project for marketing locally produced beef.
- Coordinated the 2004 October Fall Harvest Weekend; participated on organizing committees for PlacerGROWN meals in Roseville, Fruitvale School, and Loomis.
- Assisted the Placer County Wine and Grape Growers Association with the Auburn Wine Festival, and the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce with the Lincoln Showcase event.
- Worked more closely with other county departments, to develop the new land use database system, to address the impacts of development on agriculture.
- Completed more annual inspections of commercial weighing and measuring devices as mandated by law.
- Gave financial support, using funds from Fish and Game fines, in support of local youth nature programs.
- Promoted increased local enforcement of Fish and Game laws.

FY 2004-05 Planned Accomplishments

- Promote broad community based weed management projects.
- Improve pesticide use safety of household applications.
- Take advantage of inspector training programs offered by state agencies.
- Complete state contracts in the areas of pest prevention, pesticide use enforcement, and weights and measures.
- Cross-train staff and integrate inspections in order to be more efficient and to increase the depth of knowledge of the inspection team.
- Develop marketing products to be used by producers in promoting their products.
- Continued to support local youth nature programs.
- Participate in local events that celebrate the bounty of Placer County agriculture.

Department Comments

For the FY 2004-05, the California Department of Food and Agriculture and the Department of Pesticide Regulation will experience the effects of large budget cuts. These state agencies fund portions of many of our enforcement programs. So far, we have been asked to reduce work plan budgets only slightly. We hope to continue to provide nearly the same level of enforcement presence and community service that we have in the past.

Over the long term, we are looking to becoming more involved in the land use decisions that affect agriculture. In addition, the department will continue to promote locally grown agricultural products by working through the Agricultural Marketing Program.

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County Executive Comments And Recommendations

The recommended *Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer* target budget provides full funding for allocated positions. Salary and benefit increases are offset slightly by reductions in extra help and overtime funding due to conclusion of public outreach in response to the threat of Exotic Newcastle Disease (END) in California in FY 2003-04. Services and supplies include appropriations to cover the costs of year five of the agricultural marketing program and to rebudget agricultural marketing funds from prior years that have not been fully expended. Also included is Fruitvale School restoration funding. Recommended amounts reflect reductions to travel, mileage, equipment rental, and radio communications.

The Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer's budget is charged by Animal Control for trapping small animals in the Lake Tahoe area. State reimbursements are received for a portion of the agricultural commissioner's salary and various agriculture and weights-and-measures programs and for pesticide enforcement. Revenue is also received for inspection services related to plants and other agricultural commodities and inspection of vapor recovery devices (gasoline and diesel nozzle dispensers). The department is currently reviewing its fee structure and revenues, which may result in recommendations for future adjustments in fees.

Department requested funding considerations for final budget:

- Truck utility body (\$10,000)

The Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer also oversees the *Fish and Game Commission* budget. Recommended expenditures will provide for commissioner per diem, secretarial services, and travel costs, an annual trout derby, local education activities, and wildlife programs. The Fish and Game Commission budget receives an annual contribution from the General Fund, fine revenues, and interest earnings. The estimated fund balance carryover is expected to fund the net county cost.

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER/SEALER OF WEIGHTS & MEASURES FUND 100 / APPROPRIATION 22210

	Actual 2002-03	Budget 2003-04	Requested 2004-05	Recommended 2004-05	Change %	Adopted 2004-05
Expenditures						
Salaries and Employee Benefits	\$ 827,592	\$ 974,441	\$ 1,064,251	\$ 1,064,251	9%	\$ -
Services and Supplies	239,604	545,820	346,427	346,427	-37%	-
Capital Assets	-	-	10,000	-	0%	-
Other Financing Uses	14,636	-	-	-	0%	-
Intra Fund Charges	659	21,722	21,722	21,722	0%	-
Net Budget:	\$ 1,082,491	\$ 1,541,983	\$ 1,442,400	\$ 1,432,400	-7%	\$ -
Revenue						
Intergovernmental Revenue	\$ 537,047	\$ 569,755	\$ 504,559	\$ 504,559	-11%	\$ -
Charges for Services	41,963	41,100	43,100	43,100	5%	-
Miscellaneous Revenue	10,168	7,000	7,000	7,000	0%	-
Total Revenue:	589,178	617,855	554,659	554,659	-10%	-
Net County Cost:	\$ 493,313	\$ 924,128	\$ 887,741	\$ 877,741	-5%	\$ -
Allocated Positions	13	13	13	13	0%	-

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CORE FUNCTION: AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER/SEALER OF WEIGHTS & MEASURES

Weights & Measures Program

Program Purpose: To conduct inspections and enforce laws regarding accuracy in commercial weighing and measuring devices such as gas station pumps, produce scales, price scanners, and labels and certificates used by commerce, in order to protect consumers against fraud and deception and increase consumer confidence in local business.

Total Expenditures: \$231,000

Total Staffing: 3.0

- **Key Intended Outcome:** To ensure marketplace equity in commercial transactions involving weighing, measuring and labeling.

Weights & Measures Indicators:	Actual 2002-03	Projected 2003-04	Target 2004-05
% of commercial weighing and measuring devices inspected within the year	34%	88%	100%
# of inspections in which violations were found	131	300	0
% of violations cleared at first re-inspection	92%	89%	100%

Program Comments: In FY 2002-03 the department became involved in the statewide Glassy-winged Sharpshooter program in an effort to keep this serious grape pest out of Placer County. Staff resources were redirected to this program. In FY 2003-04, the department filled a vacant position and was able to devote more resources to the Weights and Measures Program.

Pesticide Use Enforcement Program

Program Purpose: To conduct agricultural pesticide use and records inspections in order to help agriculture comply with pesticide use regulations and safeguard the public and environment from pesticide misuse and harmful residues.

Total Expenditures: \$231,000

Total Staffing: 3.0

- **Key Intended Outcome:** Lower the numbers of improper pesticide use incidents.

Pesticide Use Enforcement Indicators:	Actual 2002-03	Projected 2003-04	Target 2004-05
# of pesticide use enforcement inspections in Placer County per year	181	300	400
# of violations found	89	100	0
% of violations cleared at first re-inspection	100%	100%	100%

Land Use Services

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Program Comments: In FY 2003-04, Exotic Newcastle Disease (END) was discovered in poultry flocks in southern California. The department scrambled to respond to the request from United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and California Department of Food and Agriculture to participate in survey and public outreach efforts to ensure that END was not in Placer County. Permanent staff resources were redirected to supervise a team of seasonal extra help staff and resulted in less pesticide-related field work being done in FY 2003-04 than projected prior to the END program.

Plant Health & Pest Prevention Program

Program Purpose: To protect residents and the agricultural industry from exotic insects, diseases, and weeds through nursery shipment inspections, insect detection inspections and the Weed Management Area Project.

Total Expenditures: \$820,404

Total Staffing: 7.0

- **Key Intended Outcome:** Maintain low incidence of exotic insect, disease and weed infestations.

Plant Health & Pest Prevention Indicators:	Actual 2002-03	Projected 2003-04	Target 2004-05
# of nursery shipments arriving in Placer County per year	33,355	34,000	34,000
# of inspections of nursery shipments arriving in Placer County per year	7,715	8,200	8,200
% of inspections of nursery shipments arriving in Placer County per year	23%	24%	23%
# of exotic insect pest finds during detection trapping inspections per year	18	17	0

Program Comments: As the County continues to grow so does the demand for nursery stock plants. A significant portion of the nursery stock used in Placer County comes from out of county sources and requires inspection when it arrives. The department anticipates that this trend will continue into the future.

Other Agricultural Commissioner Programs

Agricultural Marketing Program: Promotes regional public awareness of Placer County agriculture, the sale of Placer County agriculture products, and agriculture-related tourism in order to enhance economic diversification of the farming community. The Agricultural Marketing Program submits press releases to local media throughout the year that highlight Placer County agriculture, and provides outreach to farmers and ranchers on ways to improve the marketing of their products. The program also distributes approximately 100,000 Placer County Farm Trail Guides to help and encourage consumers to buy fresh agricultural products from local producers.

Total Expenditures: \$159,996

Total Staffing: 0.0

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FISH & GAME COMMISSION FUND 130 / APPROPRIATION 22370

	Actual 2002-03	Budget 2003-04	Requested 2004-05	Recommended 2004-05	Change %	Adopted 2004-05
Expenditures						
Services and Supplies	\$ 5,587	\$ 7,755	\$ 7,755	\$ 7,755	0%	\$ -
Intra Fund Charges	-	708	708	708	0%	-
Gross Budget:	5,587	8,463	8,463	8,463	0%	-
Intra Fund Credits	(1,855)	(1,755)	(1,755)	(1,755)	0%	-
Appropriations for Contingencies	-	3,902	3,902	3,902	0%	-
Net Budget:	\$ 3,732	\$ 10,610	\$ 10,610	\$ 10,610	0%	\$ -
Revenue						
Fines, Forfeits and Penalties	\$ 1,089	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	0%	\$ -
Revenue from Use of Money and Property	774	700	700	700	0%	-
Total Revenue:	1,863	2,200	2,200	2,200	0%	-
Net County Cost:	\$ 1,869	\$ 8,410	\$ 8,410	\$ 8,410	0%	\$ -
Allocated Positions	-	-	-	-	0%	-

Program Purpose: To preserve the fisheries and wildlife in Placer County for future generations through habitat improvements, animal trappings and collaring, and pollution monitoring of streams and lakes in cooperation with the State Department of Fish and Game.